

Colour Atlas of Medical Mycology. Jean Delacrétaz, Dodé Grigoriu and Georges Ducel. 187 pp. Illust. Hans Huber Publishers, Bern; Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1976. \$59.50. ISBN 0-8151-2422-8

This book is more than a colour atlas of medical mycology. It is a handbook of clinical disease produced by fungi, with considerable emphasis on mycology. Of the 440 coloured plates approximately one third illustrate clinical disease.

The book includes chapters that briefly outline the biology, classification and identification of fungi, contaminants and opportunists, and antifungal medication. The remainder of the text and photographs is devoted to the superficial and systematic mycoses, including mycoses that are common in the tropics. Lists of synonyms, a glossary and an index are provided. There are numerous cross-references within the text but no references to other authorities. Discussion of therapy is intentionally brief. The clinical material is limited but accurate and includes practical differential diagnoses.

This book has an attractive and uncrowded layout. Generally the photographs are excellent, but some are of average quality and others are poor. The authors have included photographs of clinical disease states, wet mounts, biopsy specimens and cultures.

This book is neither a reference work nor a standard text, and it will be of service to those who occasionally encounter patients with fungal disease — general practitioners, internists, specialists in infectious diseases and microbiologists. It would also be useful to residents in dermatology and could serve as a superb text for medical students.

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Gynecology. Günther Kern. 464 pp. Illust. George Thieme Publishers, Stuttgart; Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1976. Price not stated, paperbound. ISBN 0-8151-5015-6

This small pocketbook presents all of modern gynecology in a condensed form. It is divided into three main sections: general gynecology, investigational methods and classified diseases.

The first section covers the development of the sex organs from fetus to adult, sexual aberrations and the physiology of menstruation, ovulation, hormone production, conception, abortion, infertility and contraception.

The second section describes the clinical and laboratory methods of examination in regular use and their

correlations with normal and pathologic aspects.

The third section is devoted to diseases of individual organs and includes descriptions of etiology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment.

The author aims to provide the student with a pocketbook on gynecology that is comprehensive yet concentrated. The inclusion of references in the text rather than in a section at the end of the book is to be commended. Suggestions for further reading and excellent coloured diagrams that are clear and informative are provided.

However, a few areas are somewhat out of date. In the section on endocrinology no reference is made to the relation of galactorrhea to prolactin, and the section on the testing of pituitary function in patients with amenorrhea is somewhat limited.

Sequential oral contraceptive agents, which are no longer used, are referred to, but copper intrauterine devices and the new progesterone devices are not mentioned. In the section on general gynecology the classification (of ovarian tumours, for example) is still along the old lines and not based on the tissue of origin. However, the section on the cervix, which includes details on modern colposcopy technique, is excellent.

This is a good, compact text that is well produced and provides a thorough review of gynecology. It will be useful to the student and the busy practitioner as an authoritative and comprehensive work.

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Introduction to Western Acupuncture. Marguerite E. Davis and Hung Kwok-Yuen. 208 pp. Illust. Lansdowne Press, Melbourne; Paul Hamlyn Pty. Limited, Dee Why West, N.S.W., Australia, 1976. Price not stated. ISBN 0-7018-0129-8

According to the preface, this book's objective is to explain acupuncture in terms of Western medicine. This objective has not been met for two major reasons: the evidence is not well presented and the conclusions drawn are not justified. The authors have also failed to meet the accepted standards for medical publications; they have consistently borrowed tables and diagrams without indicating their source. While some footnotes are references to articles, some refer to unsupported statements elsewhere in the book.

The major thesis of the book is that the effects of acupuncture, which were observed closely and recorded by thousands of dedicated observers over hun-

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